

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification of the present application as set forth below. In accordance with the PTO's revised amendment format, changes are shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlining (for added matter).

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Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 7, line 8, with the following:

As depicted in FIG. 4A, the mapping table 200 may have one entry 210 per each "disk block" of the virtual disk 220. In an exemplary implementation  
10 the block of data is about 1 MB. While possible to build, this would result in huge mapping tables and highly fragmented mapping, both of which introduce undesirable performance degradations. In another embodiment, each mapping table entry 210 represents a variable sized group of contiguous virtual disk blocks that map to contiguous blocks on one of the physical storage containers  
15 160. This configuration of the table 200 offers greater mapping flexibility and dense mapping structures, but introduces algorithmic complexity in managing the variable sized extents and greater map entry lookup costs.

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